GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2959
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
PESTICIDES RESIDUE CURED LEAF
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of pesticides residues cured leaf is a major cause for concern to tobacco production;

(b) if so, is quality of importance to get a good price for export oriented flue-cured and burley tobacco;

(c) if so, whether the country import tobacco only with acceptable levels of pesticide residues:

(d) whether Government is considering to provide better quality of pesticide residue to the tobacco growers of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, details thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. However, this is not a serious problem as the pesticide residue levels in cured leaf of tobacco are well below the Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) stipulated by importing countries.

(b) Yes, Sir. Quality of tobacco is of importance for getting good price in the export market. However world supply, demand and interests of multinational companies operating in the tobacco market also impact the prices for Indian tobaccos.

(c) & (d) In general, pesticide residues are not desirable in agricultural produce. However, as cured leaf of tobacco is not a food item, maximum tolerance limit of pesticide residues for the same has not been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955.

(e) Does not arise.